

school teacher and small business owner, continue to volunteer their time assisting the visually impaired, the homeless, and the needy families in their local area. This lifetime commitment to service was lovingly ingrained in David, who spends countless hours giving back to his community.

After attending Mars Hill College on both music and academic scholarships, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre, David pursued an early career as a performer and entertainer. Soon, his focus shifted to production and he spent the next several years traveling as a company manager for Sesame Street Live! and producing and stage managing in San Antonio, Texas. While in Texas, he worked on Governor Ann Richards' final gubernatorial campaign and was honored to present the San Antonio bid for the 1996 Democratic National Convention to then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

After leaving Texas and moving to South Carolina to start his own entertainment production company, David was recruited by the Walt Disney Company in 1996, where he is currently the Producer for Disney Cruise Line. He holds a Masters of Science degree in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University and lectures on cruise line operations and management at the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

Much of David's free time is spent serving on several boards, volunteering his time, and advocating for the rights of others. Serving as the President of the Board of Directors for The Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival, he is committed to expanding the opportunities for artists in the Orlando area. David is a member of the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee and serves on the Equality Florida Orlando Steering Committee, both of which allow him to work for advocacy and legislation that guarantee and expand the rights of the LGBTQ population. David is an active member of the Central Florida Softball League, an organization that brings amateur softball competition to the Central Florida LGBTQ community and its allies. He has volunteered for The Hope and Help Center of Central Florida and actively supports the Zebra Coalition, where he not only gives his time, but also serves as a role model for the LGBTQ youth with whom he interacts.

The model of service and community involvement that David's parents created in their home is a difficult standard to uphold, but David continues to prove that he is an incredible asset and a boon to his community.

I am happy to honor David Baldree, during LGBT Pride Month, for his political, civic, and professional contributions to the Central Florida community.

**A RESOLUTION TO HONOR MARINE  
CORPS GENERAL CLIFTON B.  
CATES**

**HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2014*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of the Navy should name an appropriate Navy ship in honor of Marine Corps General Clifton B. Cates of Tiptonville, Tennessee.

Clifton Bledsoe Cates was born in Tiptonville, Tennessee on August 31, 1893. After graduating from high school at Missouri Military Academy in 1910 and the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Law degree in 1916, he was commissioned as second lieutenant in the Marine Corps and began active duty on June 13, 1917.

During World War I, General Cates served with the 6th Marine Regiment, fighting in France. He was the most decorated Marine Corps Officer of World War I, having been awarded the Navy Cross, Army Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Silver Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Honor, and the Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star and 2 palms.

When General Cates returned to the United States in September 1919, he served in Washington, D.C. as a White House aide and Aide-de-Camp to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. From 1923 to 1925, Cates served a tour of sea duty as commander of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS *California*, and in 1929, he was deployed to Shanghai, China, where he rejoined the 4th Marines and served for three years. He then returned to the United States for training at the Army Industrial College, and by 1940, he was named the Director of the Marine Officers Basic School at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

In 1942, Colonel Cates led the 1st Marine Regiment at Guadalcanal, for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit. From there, he took command of the 4th Marine Division in the Marianas operation, the Tinian campaign and the seizure of Iwo Jima. He received several distinguished awards for his service at Iwo Jima, including the Distinguished Service Medal with a gold star. After his tour of duty in the Pacific, Cates returned to the United States to serve as Commandant of the Marine Corps Schools at Quantico until 1944. He then returned to the Pacific until the end of the war as commander of the 4th Marine Division.

On January 1, 1948, Cates was promoted to the rank of General and sworn in as Commandant of the Marine Corps. He served in this position for four years until he retired on June 30, 1954 after thirty-seven years of military service. General Cates passed away on June 4, 1970 at the United States Naval Hospital in Annapolis, Maryland and was buried with full military honors on June 8, 1970 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Because of his heroic and dedicated service to our nation, I fully support the Secretary of the Navy naming an appropriate ship after General Clifton B. Cates. It's an honor to introduce this legislation.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2014*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2014, during floor consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, I inadvertently voted "nay" on Mr. MORAN's amendment, rollcall vote No. 324, when I intended to vote "yea".

**THE PASSING OF DENNIS PITTS**

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2014*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Hall County lost a wonderful citizen and community leader when my friend Dennis Pitts passed in his family's home on May 24 at just the age of 58.

A lifelong Georgian, Dennis was a 1973 graduate of Johnson High School. He worked in real estate for many years before becoming Hall County's first Republican commissioner. He served two terms in that position, starting in 1994. In business, he became president and chief financial officer of Minit Save Food Stores and Pitts Management Co.

Most recently, Dennis served in the office of his close friend, Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle. Dennis was Cagle's North Georgia field representative and chief economic development officer.

In addition to his civic and community involvement, Dennis was an avid outdoorsman who spent time hunting, fishing, running, swimming, and cycling—including a 55-mile ride on his 55th birthday. He was also a member of the First Baptist Church of Gainesville.

Dennis will be remembered as a thoughtful, generous man who took great pride in serving Northeast Georgia. My prayers and thoughts are with Dennis' wife, Jane, as well as his parents and siblings during this difficult time.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROYAL  
MARINES**

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2014*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Royal Marines as they celebrate their 350th year of service to the people of Britain.

The Royal Marines were originally formed as "the Duke of York and Albany's maritime regiment of Foot" in 1664 under the reign of King Charles II. Later, in 1755, they became the official marine infantry for the Royal Navy, and acquired their present-day title by King George III in 1802. For centuries, the countless men and women who have served in the Royal Marines have fought valiantly for their country, and they have been present at more battles on land and sea than any other branch of the British Armed Forces. From the Battle of Trafalgar and other Napoleonic-era battles to World War I and World War II, and from Cold War conflicts up to modern-day service in Iraq and Afghanistan, members of the Royal Marines have witnessed the world changing drastically throughout their many centuries of service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Royal Marines upon this important milestone. I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating their 350 years of service to the people of Britain.